

ment" houses and Mission houses in some of the poor, dirty parts of the cities, where nearly all the people are wicked and do not even go to church or try to do right,—where the little children are only taught sinful ways and never hear of Jesus. These ladies and gentlemen go and live among them, and get them to come to their house and hear nice music and learn good lessons, and they teach and help them all, and go into their homes and help to nurse the sick ones. This is the way to help them to be good. This is Jesus' way with sinful ones.

Feasting—Our Lesson story tells us about Jesus being in a home and eating amongst people that the proud Jews looked down upon as sinners. They begin to talk to the disciples and to blame Jesus for doing this. They think He should have nothing to do with this sort of people. They called Him a "Friend of Sinners". They said this in a scornful, nasty way, not knowing that they were saying a very beautiful thing about Him. Jesus *had* great compassion for sinners. He sat with them at the feast, that He might do them good.

Golden Text—When Jesus hears this, He tells them that, when people are well they do not need a doctor. It is when they are sick that a doctor is needed. Jesus came to save

sinners, to cure sin-sickness, He said. (All repeat the Golden Text.)

Fasting—Then they began to ask Jesus why His followers did not fast and mourn as those who believed John's preaching did. These did without food to show that they were sorry for their sins and wished to be forgiven. Jesus told them there was no need to fast and mourn now, for He was with them and His followers should be joyful. The time would come when He would be taken away from them by being put to death, and then, in their loneliness and sorrow, they would fast; but until that time came He wanted them to be glad. He meant to teach them that there is to be a new way of worshiping. His followers must try to be like Him, always kind, always ready to help both good and bad.

Loving Work Done for Jesus' Sake—All repeat:

"Yes, there's always work in plenty

For the little ones to do.

Something's waiting every day,

That none may try but you;

Little burdens you may lift,

Happy steps that you may take,

Heavy hearts that you may comfort,

Doing all for Jesus' sake."

Something to Think About—I should be loving.

FROM THE PLATFORM

DOWN IN THE HUMAN HEART, CRUSHED BY THE TEMPTER,

FEELINGS LIE BURIED THAT GRACE CAN RESTORE:

TOUCHED BY A LOVING HEART, WAKENED BY KINDNESS,

CHORDS THAT WERE BROKEN WILL VIBRATE ONCE MORE.

Print on the blackboard the third verse of Hymn 456, Book of Praise. Ask the scholars to name in it the phrases that describe Matthew's condition before he became a follower of Christ. Were not his feelings "crushed" by the way the people around him regarded him, by the way his own conscience troubled him? Was he not the victim of the "tempter" who had got him to love oppression and ill-gotten gain? Now ask for the phrases that describe Jesus helping Matthew. Did not Jesus "touch" Matthew with His "loving heart" and "waken" the better part of his life by "kindness"? Matthew's life after this was spent in making many people better and happier. As Jesus called Matthew, He calls us to follow and serve Him. No matter how sinful we have been, He wants us. And He wants us to help by love and kindness those who are down in the depths.